# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4925
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
STRENGTHENING OF MARITIME SECURITY
Masood Shri Rasheed

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has formulated a policy to strengthen maritime security;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of increase in sea trade registered recently;

(d) whether weapons hidden in furniture in the ship from Dubai were seized at Cochin port;

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(f) whether the Government proposes to set up National Maritime Advisory Board;

(g) if so, by when; and

(h) if not, reasons therefor?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) & (b): The policy to strengthen maritime security includes continuous and sustained presence of and surveillance by its maritime assets in its territorial waters, Exclusive Economic Zone and other areas of maritime interest. To implement the policy, the various platforms and equipments of Indian Navy and Coast Guard are upgraded and augmented from time to time in a phased manner. A Coastal Security Scheme has been formulated to provide assistance to coastal states and union territories to set up coastal police stations, check posts and out-posts and equip them with boats and vehicles. India is also having regular interactions with the Indian Ocean Region littoral states. Cooperation with our maritime neighbours in the field of sharing information on ship movement, platform signatures, exercises, long standing constructive engagement and coordinated patrols along International Maritime Boundaries, etc., in order to maintain good order at sea, is also a part of the strategy.

(c) As per the latest information available, during the years 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 (upto October, 2006), India's trade, by way of imports and exports through different sea ports, has been as under:

Figures in Rs./crores (approx.)

| Year | Imports | Exports |
|---|---|---|
| 2004-2005 | 1,75,503 | 2,13,630 |
| 2005-2006 | 2,29,080 | 2,70,398 |
| 2006-2007 (upto October, 2006) | 3,75,133 | 2,07,563 |

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. Five persons have been arrested. The security at the port has been tightened.

(f) to (h): The constitution of a Maritime Security Advisory Board is one of the options with the Government.